THE BEST OF BRITISH COMICS – IT'S

TERRIFIC

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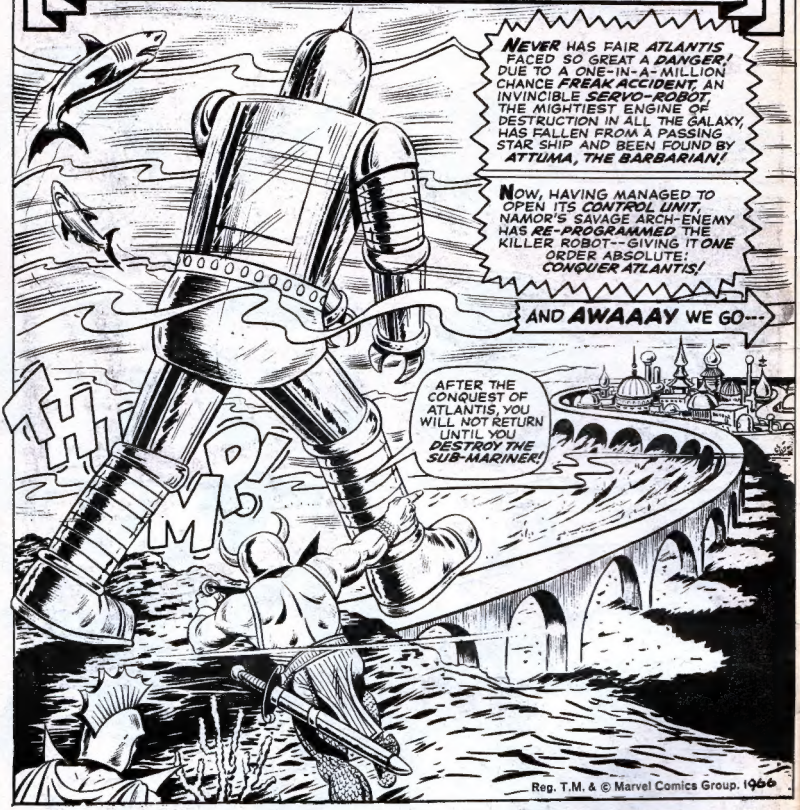
THE ISSUE YOU MUSTN'T MISS! EVERYONE'S HERE — BUT THEY'RE NOT STAYING, SO COME IN QUICK.

Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group.

Prince Namor, THE SUB-MARINER!

"THE PRINCE AND THE POWER!"



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AT LAST THE ACCURSED PRINCE NAMOR WILL FACE A FOE AGAINST WHOM HE CAN HAVE NO DEFENCE!
BEFORE THIS DAY IS DONE--WHEN ATLANTIS LIES IN RUINS--WHEN NAMOR IS DESTROYED --I SHALL BE MASTER OF ALL THE WORLD BENEATH THE SEA!
THEN, MY BARBARIAN HORDES WILL BE FREE TO CONQUER THE SURFACE WORLD, AS WELL!
NEVER AGAIN WILL THE HATED WORDS-- IMPERIUS REX-- ASSAIL MY EARS!
EVEN NOW, THE MYSTERIOUS ROBOT FROM NOWHERE BATTERS THE GATES OF DOOMED ATLANTIS!
THE GATES WHICH ARE POWERLESS TO STAND AGAINST HIS IRRESISTIBLE MIGHT!
THOOOM!
WITHIN SECONDS, THE ALARM IS SOUNDED THROUGH THE FABLED REALM, AS ALL OF ATLANTIS QUAKES BENEATH THE UNLIVING INVADER'S GIGANTIC HEEL--
WE ARE ATTACKED --BY THE MOST MONSTROUS MENACE SINCE TIME'S FIRST DAWN!
FLEE! FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES!
ONLY MIGHTY NAMOR CAN SAVE US NOW!
NO! NOT EVEN THE SUB-MARINER HAS POWER ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH THE LIKES OF THAT!
'TIS THE END OF FAIR ATLANTIS! WE ARE UNDONE!

BUT, ONE THERE IS WHO DOES NOT GIVE WAY TO PANIC--WHO DOES NOT ACKNOWLEDGE GRIM DEFEAT! FOR HE IS TRULY PRINCE OF THE BLOOD --HE IS TRULY NAMOR, THE AVENGING SON--!
EVEN THE HATE-CRAZED ATTUMA COULD NOT CREATE A METAL BEHEMOTH AS MIGHTY AS THAT!
NO! HIS ORIGIN IS ELSEWHERE--AND THE BLOODTHIRSTY BARBARIAN DID BUT GAIN CONTROL OF HIM THROUGH SOME TRAGIC ACCIDENT! 'TIS THE ONLY ANSWER!

WHAT MATTERS IT, MY LORD, FROM WHENCE THE MONSTER CAME?
ONE THING IS CERTAIN--WE ARE TRULY DOOMED UNLESS WE TAKE FLIGHT --FOR NOTHING CAN HALT YON RAMPAGING ROBOT!
YOUR WORDS, AS EVER, ARE STEEPED IN WISDOM, MY LORD VASUTI! YOU SHALL GATHER MY PEOPLE, AND LEAD THEIR EVACUATION FROM THE CITY!
BUT--WHAT OF YOU, SIRE?
I? I AM PRINCE OF THE REALM! I AM ATLANTIS!
THUS, HERE DO I STAND!

BUT, BEHOLD, SIRE! SEE HOW THE INVADER HAS THE POWER TO TURN HIMSELF WHITE-HOT! SEE HOW EFFORTLESSLY HE MELTS THROUGH WALLS OF THICKEST STEEL!

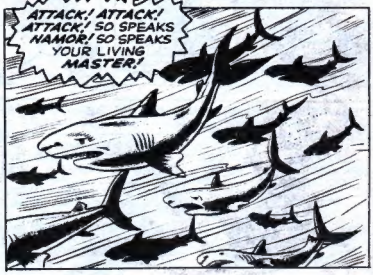
AND, HIS EYES! THEY ARE TWIN BEAMS OF DISINTEGRATING FURY! HE IS TRULY DESTRUCTION INCARNATE!
ALL THE MORE REASON FOR ME TO REMAIN! A WAY MUST BE FOUND TO CRUSH YON DREADNOUGHT BEFORE ALL WHO LIVE ARE MENACED BY HIS MIGHT!

QUICKLY! COMMAND MY PALACE GUARD TO ABANDON THE FIGHT! THEIR WEAPONS ARE USELESS AGAINST THE METAL BEING!
LET THEM ESCORT MY PEOPLE DURING THE GREAT EVACUATION!
FZZTOOOOM!
ZAMMMMMMMM!
LET THE BATTLE CEASE! BY ORDER IMPERIAL OF NAMOR THE FIRST!
IMPERIUS REX!
'TIS JUST AS WELL! OUR WEAPONS ARE WASTED AGAINST THE DEADLY LEVIATHAN!
NOW GO, FAITHFUL VASHTI! THE TIME FOR TALK IS PAST!
BUT, MY LORD NAMOR--YOU WILL STAND ALONE--AND UNARMED! YOU MUST NOT SACRIFICE YOUR LIFE IN A GESTURE SO VAIN!
MY LIFE BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE--TO THE REALM ETERNAL! I DO WHAT I MUST--I CANNOT DO LESS!
A FINAL WORD--THE LADY DORMA! GUARD HER, VASHTI--I LEAVE HER IN YOUR TRUST!
BUT, MY LORD! SHE WILL NEVER ABANDON YOU! SHE--
TOO LATE! HE IS GONE!
NOW, THERE IS NO TURNING BACK! I AM COMMITTED TO THE BATTLE!
MAY THE SPIRIT OF ATLANTIS BE AT MY SIDE! MAY FATHER NEPTUNE GIVE ME THE STRENGTH, THE WISDOM, FOR VICTORY!
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CARRY OUT MY SOVEREIGN'S COMMAND! I SHALL LEAD THE DREADED EXODUS--I SHALL FIND THE GENTLE DORMA--! THE DIE IS CAST! THE CRISIS IS COME!

MY ROYAL GUARD HURLS A FINAL VOLLEY AT THE SILENT INVADER--BUT, TO NO AVAIL!
DISPERSE ALL WEAPONS! EVACUATE THE SITE!
NAMOR NOW STRIKES--FOR ATLANTIS!
SPOOOW!
NO SOONER IS THE ARTILLERY BARRAGE SILENCED, THAN THE TERRIFYING, TOWERING TITAN SIGHTS HIS SWIFTLY STREAKING FOE--AND THEN--
HE TURNS HIS DISINTEGRATOR BEAMS UPON ME!
'TIS AS I FEARED--HIS MISSION IS ONE OF TOTAL DESTRUCTION!
BUT, THOUGH HIS POWER BE INCALCULABLE--HE CANNOT MATCH THE SPEED OF NAMOR!
I SHALL CIRCLE 'ROUND HIM UNTIL I AM BEYOND HIS LINE OF VISION--AND ATTACK AGAIN!

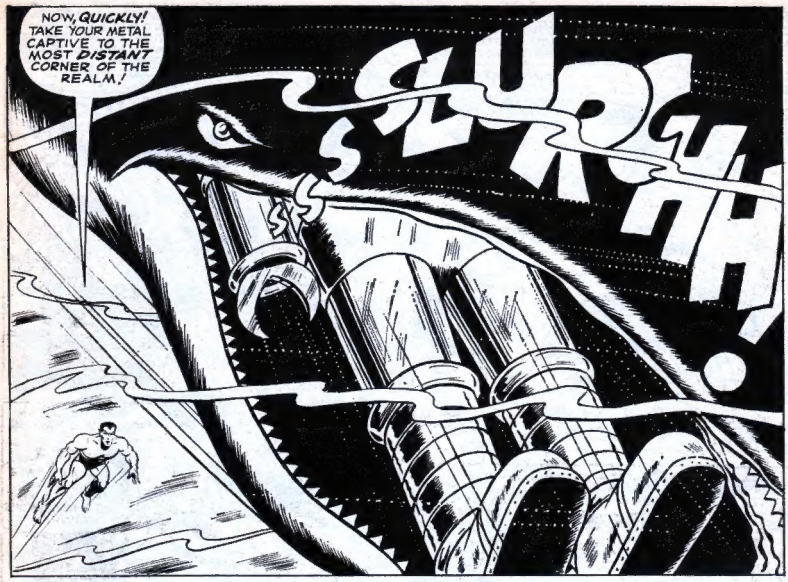
BUT, BEFORE THE UNFLINCHING MONARCH CAN STREAK WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF HIS UNEARTHLY FOE--
HIS METAL SHELL HAS TURNED WHITE HOT--WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF THOUGHT!
ANOTHER SECOND'S CONTACT, AND I SHOULD HAVE BEEN CHARRED BEYOND HOPE OF SURVIVAL!
BUT, I DARE NOT SURRENDER! WHAT STRENGTH CANNOT ACHIEVE, MUST NOW BE WON BY STRATEGY!

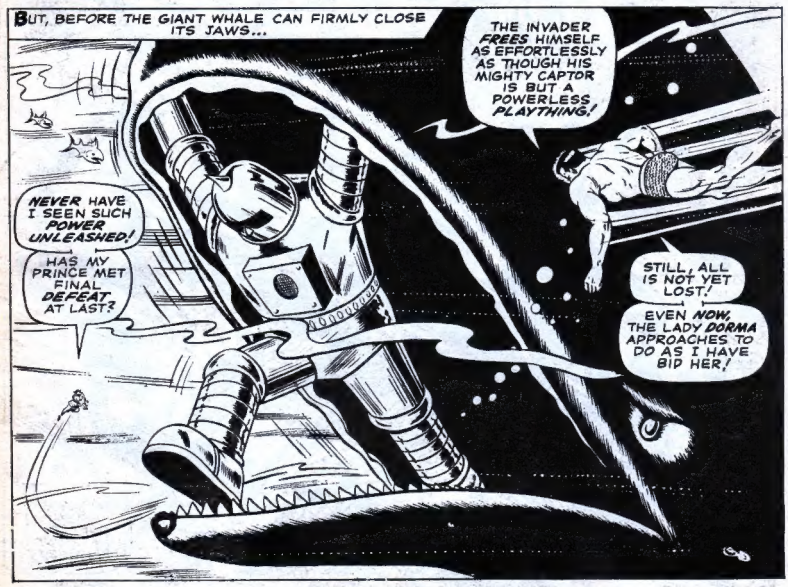
HE CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE HALLOWED CITY! I MUST PLAY FOR TIME--TIME IN WHICH TO DELAY--TO CONFOUND HIM--!
TO MY SIDE, FEARLESS PREDATORS OF THE DEEP!
LET EVERY FANGED SHARK WITHIN SOUND OF MY VOICE OBEY THE COMMAND OF THE SUBMARINER!
ATTACK, MY VALIANT ONES! ATTACK--


ATTACK! ATTACK! ATTACK! SO SPEAKS NAMOR! SO SPEAKS YOUR LIVING MASTER!

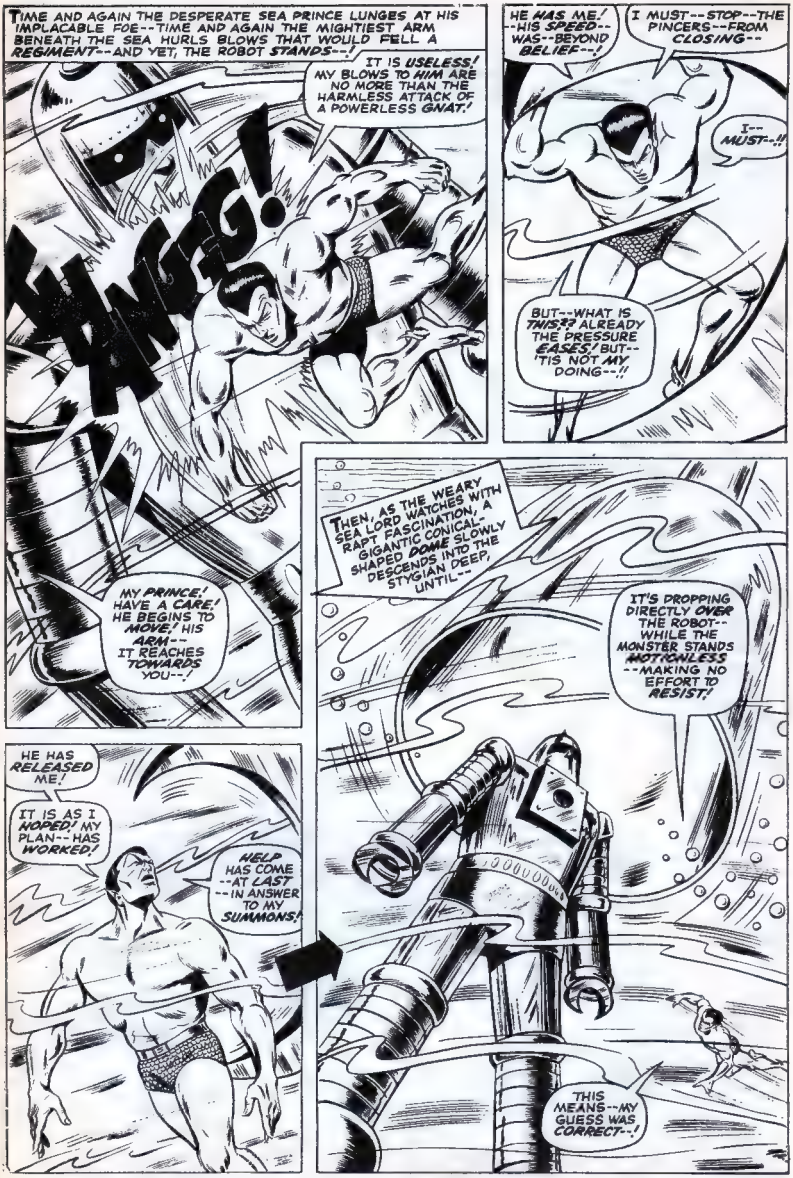
THEY ARE POWERLESS TO HARM HIM--BUT, HE TURNS FROM ATLANTIS, TO MEET THEIR CHARGE!
THUS, I HAVE GAINED PRECIOUS MOMENTS--WHILE MY PEOPLE FLEE TO SAFETY!
THROP!

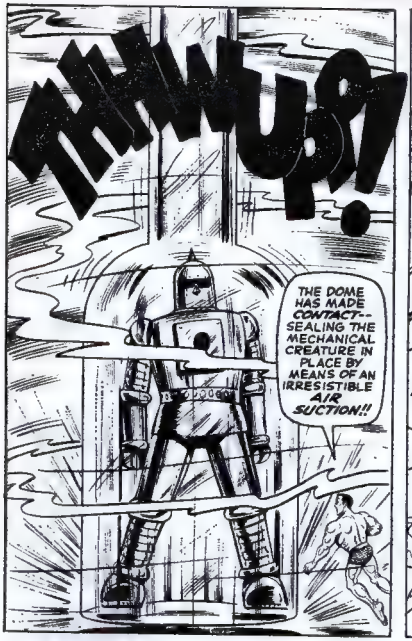
AT THAT MOMENT, THE SNEERING, ARROGANT VOICE OF ATTUMA THUNDERS THROUGH THE DEEP--
HEAR YOUR CONQUEROR, NAMOR! ONLY YOUR COMPLETE SURRENDER CAN SAVE ATLANTIS!
THE SUB-MARINER HAS NO CHOICE! HE MUST BOW TO OUR MATCH-LESS MIGHT!
BUT SUDDENLY, A NEW, UNEXPECTED VOICE RINGS OUT--
MY PRINCE--DO NOT YIELD!
OUR PEOPLE WOULD CHOOSE DEATH TO THE BRUTAL RULE OF ATTUMA!
DORMA! YOU WERE ORDERED TO FLEE--WITH VASHTI!
I COULD NOT, MY LORD! NOT WHILE YOU ARE STILL IN PERIL!
PERHAPS YOU MAY YET BE OF SERVICE, MY LADY--FAR GREATER SERVICE THAN YOU DREAM!
YOU HAVE BUT TO COMMAND, SIRE --AND IT SHALL BE DONE!
WITHIN MY IMPERIAL CHAMBER, THERE IS A PROJECTO-CAMERA! YOU MUST FIND IT--
A CAMERA! SURELY YOU JEST, MY PRINCE!
BE SILENT! YOU MUST NOW ATTEND MY EVERY WORD--
SECONDS LATER--
'TIS THIS WHICH MY BELOVED HAS SENT ME FOR--
THOUGH I CANNOT PERCEIVE HIS PURPOSE, I MUST DO AS COMMANDED--
FOR, WHO AM I TO FATHOM THE WORKINGS OF A MONARCH'S MIND?
STILL--I PRAY THAT NAMOR HAS NOT TAKEN LEAVE OF HIS VERY SENSES!
AND, EVEN AS THE PUZZLED LADY DORMA PREPARES TO EXECUTE THE SUB-MARINER'S STRANGE ORDERS--
I MUST STILL GAIN PRECIOUS TIME--TO DELAY THE ROBOT'S ATTACK!
AND YOU--LARGEST OF ALL WHO DWELL BENEATH THE DEEP--ONLY YOU CAN SERVE ME NOW!
GO THEN, OBEDIENT ONE! DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!

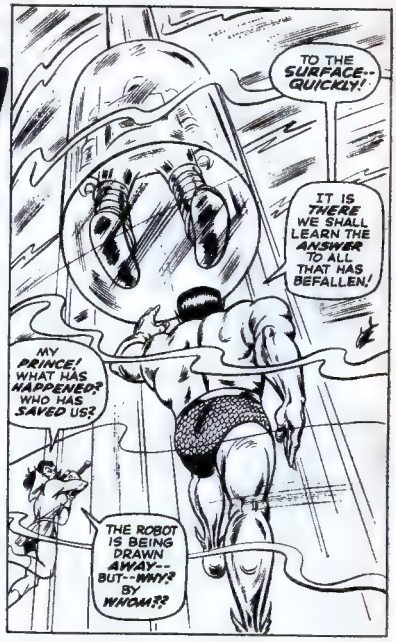

NOW, QUICKLY! TAKE YOUR METAL CAPTIVE TO THE MOST DISTANT CORNER OF THE REALM!
SLURGH NH!

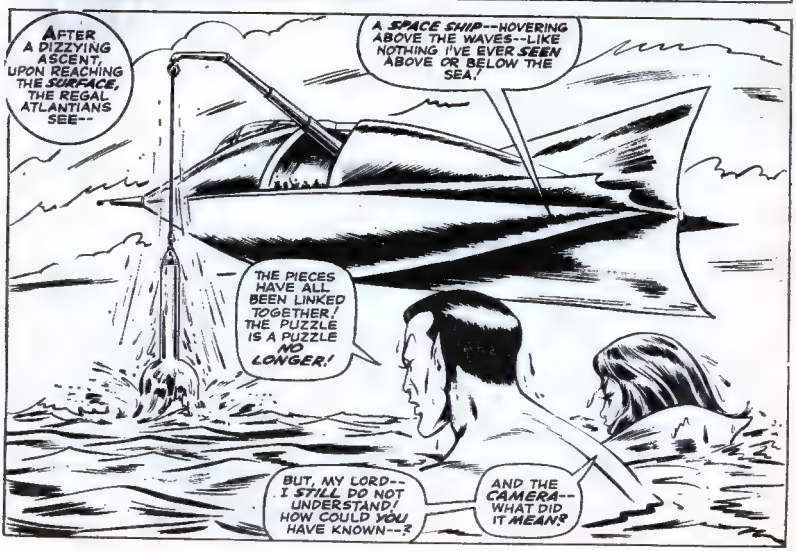

BUT, BEFORE THE GIANT WHALE CAN FIRMLY CLOSE ITS JAWS...
THE INVADER FREES HIMSELF AS EFFORTLESSLY AS THOUGH HIS MIGHTY CAPTOR IS BUT A POWERLESS PLAYTHING!
NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH POWER UNLEASHED!
HAS MY PRINCE MET FINAL DEFEAT AT LAST?
STILL, ALL IS NOT YET LOST!
EVEN NOW, THE LADY DORMA APPROACHES TO DO AS I HAVE BID HER!

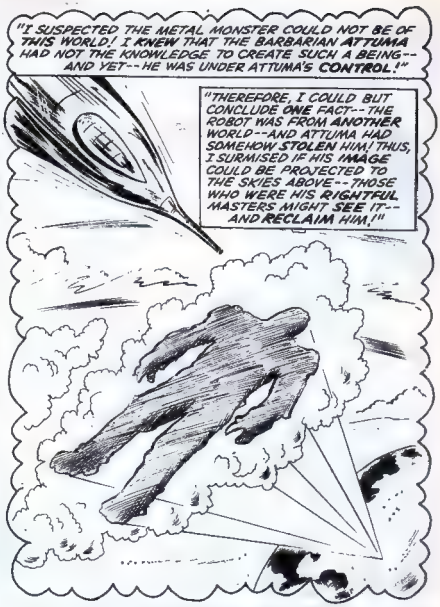
DO AS I COMMANDED, MY LADY! LET NOTHING STOP YOU!
IF MY PLAN IS TO SUCCEED, WE NEED BUT MINUTES MORE--AND I SHALL SUMMON ANOTHER FORCE TO OBTAIN THEM FOR US!
MANY-ARMED CREATURES FROM THE MURKY DEPTHS! HEED THE CALL OF NAMOR!!
THEY COME--AS I KNEW THEY WOULD!
ATTACK, LOYAL OCTOPI! LET YOUR SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS TOPPLE THE TOWERING FOE--AS YOU HOLD HIM IN YOUR EMBRACE OF DEATH!
BACK, DORMA--BACK! HE SHATTERS THEIR DREADED HOLD WITH BUT ONE SINGLE THRUST!
ONLY THE POWER OF NAMOR CAN NOW PREVAIL!
BOOM!

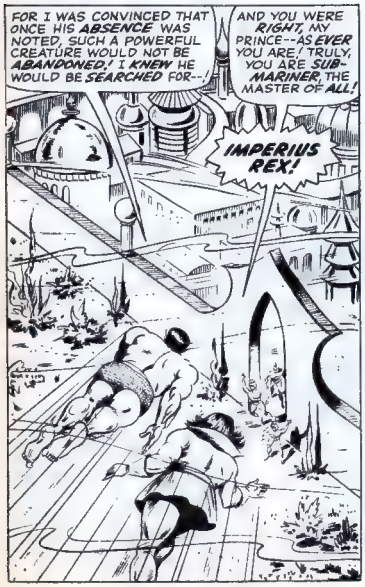

TIME AND AGAIN THE DESPERATE SEA PRINCE LUNGES AT HIS IMPLACABLE FOE--TIME AND AGAIN THE MIGHTIEST ARM BENEATH THE SEA HURLS BLOWS THAT WOULD FELL A REGIMENT--AND YET, THE ROBOT STANDS--!
IT IS USELESS! MY BLOWS TO HIM ARE NO MORE THAN THE HARMLESS ATTACK OF A POWERLESS GNAT!
PNGG!
MY PRINCE! HAVE A CARE! HE BEGINS TO MOVE! HIS ARM-- IT REACHES TOWARDS YOU--!
HE MAS ME! --HIS SPEED--- WAS--BEYOND BELIEF--!
I MUST--STOP--THE PINCERS---FROM CLOSING--
I-- MUST--!!
BUT--WHAT IS THIS?? ALREADY THE PRESSURE EASES! BUT-- 'TIS NOT MY DOING--!!
THEN, AS THE WEARY SEA LORD WATCHES WITH RAPT FASCINATION, A GIGANTIC CONICAL-SHAPED DOME SLOWLY DESCENDS INTO THE STYGIAN DEEP, UNTIL--
IT'S DROPPING DIRECTLY OVER THE ROBOT-- WHILE THE MONSTER STANDS MOTIONLESS --MAKING NO EFFORT TO RESIST!
THIS MEANS--MY GUESS WAS CORRECT--!
HE HAS RELEASED ME!
IT IS AS I HOPED! MY PLAN--HAS WORKED!
HELP HAS COME --AT LAST --IN ANSWER TO MY SUMMONS!

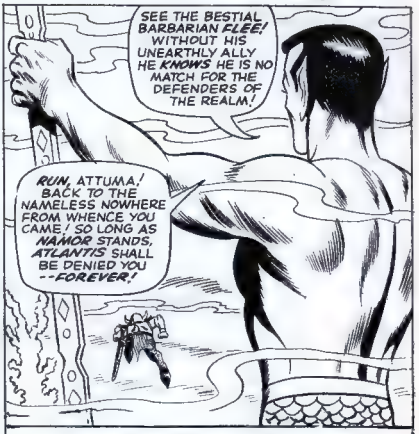

THUMP!
THE DOME HAS MADE CONTACT--SEALING THE MECHANICAL CREATURE IN PLACE BY MEANS OF AN IRRESISTIBLE AIR SUCTION!!


TO THE SURFACE--QUICKLY!
IT IS THERE WE SHALL LEARN THE ANSWER TO ALL THAT HAS BEFALLEN!
MY PRINCE! WHAT HAS HAPPENED? WHO HAS SAVED US?
THE ROBOT IS BEING DRAWN AWAY--BUT--WHY? BY WHOM??


AFTER A DIZZYING ASCENT, UPON REACHING THE SURFACE, THE REGAL ATLANTIANS SEE--
A SPACE SHIP--HOVERING ABOVE THE WAVES--LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER SEEN ABOVE OR BELOW THE SEA.
THE PIECES HAVE ALL BEEN LINKED TOGETHER! THE PUZZLE IS A PUZZLE NO LONGER!
BUT, MY LORD--I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND! HOW COULD YOU HAVE KNOWN--?
AND THE CAMERA--WHAT DID IT MEAN?







FRANTIC ONES, HERE ENDS ONE OF THE GREATEST SAGAS IN THE HISTORY OF *POWER* COMICS—FOR TODAY WE SAY "GOODBYE" TO THE AWESOME SUB-MARINER! BUT DON'T SHED TOO MANY TEARS BECAUSE HE WILL RETURN ONE DAY—THIS WE PROMISE! MEANWHILE LOOK WHO'S TAKING OVER . . .

news from the floor of 64

64, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2.

FACE FRONT!! For the *'second* inspiring instalment of incidental intelligence on key characters in the comic business! Spotlighting the lad whose magic pencil brings the writer's story to swinging life . . . THE ARTIST!

Our pro pencil-pusher must be able to draw well (natch!) and also draw well FAST!! If his art doesn't get to the printers on time the result could mean two or more BLANK PAGES in an issue! —and that gives us the shakes just to think about it! Add to that the fact that the average artist is expected to create some thirty to forty pictures (or 'frames' as they are known in the profesh) *a week* and you'll agree that adds up to a *man-size* responsibility! It's also his responsibility to interpret, visually, the right mood or atmosphere of the writer's story as well as create the characters with appearance to match script and dialogue. *Poor* art can kill a *superlative* script stone dead, and that's why you'll hear scriptwriters and editors lower their voices with hushed respect when the name of a master penster comes up.

He generally works in black and white. (Colour, if needed, is left to a specialist colourman; same thing goes for lettering!) Usually he's a geat who works at home, posting in his pages as he finishes them. He's owner of a king-sized reference library, for in a script he could be called on to depict anything from a tulwar to a tragopan, and he always must keep in touch with modern trends in dress, hair-style, etc., or his work will have the 'dated' look.

Last, if he's good, he makes good money (we know that isn't important, but we just threw it in as a bonus). Still want to art for a living, you would-be pensters? If you do, take some art-school training, keep on looking at comics, then take pen in hand and DO it, tiger!

Next week's final educational instalment will take apart a typical EDITOR! So until that gruesome moment . . . 'nuff said!!

MEET TWENTY PROUD POWER-PACK PEOPLE . . .

Kim Brown, Tulse Hill, London, S.E.24; Stephen Phillips, Liverpool; N. Jones, Cardiff, Wales; Kevin Booker, Harden, Walsall, Staffs.; Ian Laherty, Queensland, Australia; L. Archer, Swindon, Wilts.; Jonathan Ridel, Cockfosters, Herts.; Anthony Dagul, Maida Vale, London, W.9; Patrick Barnford, Leeds, 8; Kenneth Nattrass, Consett, Co. Durham; Melvin Beard, Stapleford, Notts.; Andrew MacWilliam, Carmarthen, S. Wales; Kelly Stewart, South Tottenham, London, N.15; Joe Bush, Edgware, Middx., Mark Taylor, Cranleigh, Surrey; Pinchas Leigh, Haifa, Israel; Leonora O'Brien, Emsworth, Hants.; Tegwyn Pughe, Hatch End, Pinner, Middx.; A. Horrockes, Bamber Bridge, Nr. Preston, Lancs.; L. Chang, Beckenham, Kent.

WHO'S TRAINING WHO? When we hire staff, we go for the BEST! But sometimes we even surprise *ourselves!* Take young STEVE MOORE for instance! A keen and promising lad who joined us to learn the comics business. Well, that's what we THOUGHT anyway! Fact is we'd hardly had time to puff out our chests and begin to impart the gems of our knowledge when we realised this kiddo is an EXPERT!! A walking ENCYCLOPAEDIA on comics!! Hold up a piece of super-hero art, dated even as far back as the early forties, and Steve knows who wrote it, arted, coloured and lettered it . . . and probably even the PAPER the writer used to script it, on! He's even gone so far as to tell us obscure facts about the origins of the super-heroes WE use in POWER! And we've argued with him and, darn it, he's been RIGHT! But we're *big* people up here in the garret! We don't hold it against him! And anyway, sunny Steve's a nice (and useful) team-mate to have around!

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH!

PART 2

Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group. 1965

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN AN UNUSUAL *PRESS CONFERENCE* BEING HELD IN THE AUDITORIUM OF THE AVENGERS' HEADQUARTERS--

I DON'T *GET* IT! WHERE ARE *THOR*--AND *CAPTAIN AMERICA*?? AND ISN'T THAT *HAWKEYE* ON THE ROSTRUM? WHAT'S *HE* DOING THERE??

QUIET, BILL! IRON MAN'S ABOUT TO SPEAK! HE'LL FILL US IN ON WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!

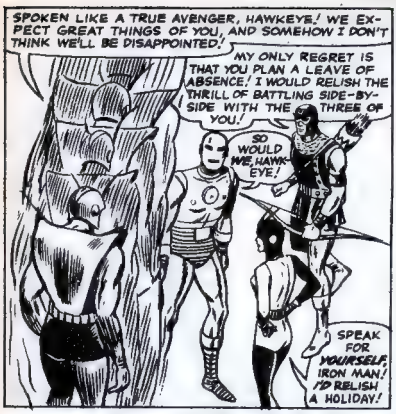
GOSH! LOOK AT THE *TURN OUT*, BLUE EYES!

IT *FIGURES*, HONEY! THE *AVENGERS* ALWAYS MAKE HEAD-LINES!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS, WE CALLED THIS MEETING TO ANNOUNCE A *CHANGE* IN THE OFFICIAL AVENGERS' LINEUP!

WE FELT THAT A DIRECT ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE BETTER THAN HAVING THE PUBLIC CONFUSED BY GUESSES AND UNCONFIRMED RUMOURS!

I *KNEW* IT WOULD BE SOMETHING *BIG*!


SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE AVENGER, HAWKEYE! WE EXPECT GREAT THINGS OF YOU, AND SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE DISAPPOINTED!
MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT YOU PLAN A LEAVE OF ABSENCE! I WOULD RELISH THE THRILL OF BATTLING SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE THREE OF YOU!
SO WOULD WE, HAWK-EYE!
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, IRON MAN! I'D RELISH A HOLIDAY!

I'VE BEEN PROMISING THE WASP A VACATION FOR MONTHS, AND I CAN'T DISAPPOINT HER AGAIN! BUT REMEMBER--WE'RE ONLY TAKING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE! WE'RE NOT PLANNING TO RESIGN FOREVER!
MAYBE YOU'RE NOT, HIGH POCKETS--BUT IF I CAN EVER GET YOU NEAR A REGISTRY OFFICE--LOOK OUT!
YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR STEP, BIG FELLA, OR--SAY! HERE'S THE MID-DAY POST! LET'S SEE IF WE HAVE ANY MORE APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

IT LOOKS MIGHTY HEAVY! I'LL JUST GET THE POST BAG OVER HERE BY REVERSING MY TRANSISTORIZED REPELLOR BEAMS! I HATE TO GET OUT OF PRACTICE!
OKAY, PRETTY GIRL, LET'S ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES! WE'VE GOT A LOT OF MAIL OPENING TO DO!
SOME JOB FOR SUPER-HEROES!--SIGH!

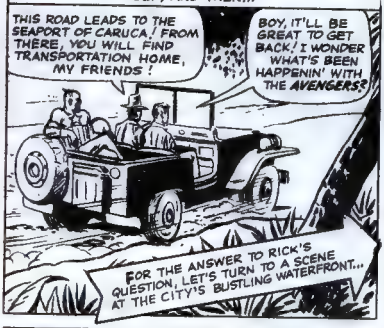
AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, DEEP IN THE AMAZON JUNGLE, WE FIND...
TOO BAD YOU'RE NOT THE HULK, CAP! HE COULD HAVE GOT OUT OF HERE WITH JUST A FEW HIGH-FLYIN' LONG-DISTANCE LEAPS!
YOU STILL HAVE A GREAT LOYALTY TO THE GREEN-SKINNED GIANT, DON'T YOU, RICK? PERSONALLY, LAD, I ADMIRE YOU FOR IT!

WOW! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT BOA CONSTRICTOR, CAP!
HE WON'T BOTHER US IF WE DON'T BOTHER HIM! BUT--HOLD IT! I HEAR SOMETHING IN THAT CLEARING!

A WHITE MAN--BEING ATTACKED BY A PANTHER! TOO FAR FOR ME TO REACH HIM IN TIME! ONLY ONE THING TO DO--!
N-NO! NO!

CLANNG!

YOU SAVED ME, SEÑOR! THE PANTHER FLEES IN PAIN!
SAY! IF YOU SPEAK ENGLISH, WE MUST BE GETTING NEAR CIVILIZATION!
THAT'S RIGHT, RICK! WE'RE ON THE BORDER OF A COASTAL PLANTATION!


MINUTES LATER, THE GRATEFUL PLANTATION WORKER TAKES THE TWO WEARY ADVENTURERS TO A NEARBY JEEP, AND THEN...
THIS ROAD LEADS TO THE SEAPORT OF CARUCA! FROM THERE, YOU WILL FIND TRANSPORTATION HOME, MY FRIENDS!
BOY, IT'LL BE GREAT TO GET BACK! I WONDER WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENIN' WITH THE AVENGERS?
FOR THE ANSWER TO RICK'S QUESTION, LET'S TURN TO A SCENE AT THE CITY'S BUSTLING WATERFRONT...

HERE COME QUICKSILVER AND THE SCARLET WITCH NOW!
IT FEELS FUNNY TO BE DRIVING YOU TO MEET SOMEONE WHO ISN'T A BEAUTIFUL SOCIETY GIRL, BOSS!
I THINK YOU'LL FIND THAT THE SCARLET WITCH IS FAR FROM UNATTRACTIVE, HAPPY!

MY NAME IS ANTHONY STARK! I AM A FRIEND OF THE AVENGERS--IN FACT, THEY HOLD THEIR MEETINGS IN A BUILDING WHICH I LEASE TO THEM FOR THAT PURPOSE! THEY ASKED ME TO MEET YOU HERE AND TAKE YOU TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS!
THAT IS KIND OF YOU, MR. STARK! MY NAME IS PIETRO, AND THIS IS MY SISTER, WANDA!
PERHAPS WE ARE BETTER KNOWN AS QUICKSILVER, AND THE SCARLET WITCH!

THE REPORTERS WHO ARE HERE BEAR WITNESS TO YOUR FAME, MY FRIENDS!
WOULD YOU FACE THE CAMERA FOR A PICTURE, PLEASE? THANKS--THAT'S GREAT!
WE HOPE TO BECOME AVENGERS--IF THEY WILL HAVE US!
IS IT TRUE YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE NEXT TWO AVENGERS REPLACEMENTS??

YOU'VE BATTLED THE *X-MEN* IN THE PAST! BUT THEY'VE PUBLICLY STATED THAT YOU ARE NO LONGER TO BE CONSIDERED MENACES TO SOCIETY!

COULD WE HAVE A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR POWER, QUICKSILVER? IT WOULD MAKE A GREAT PICTURE SERIES FOR OUR SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT!

I DO NOT APPROVE OF PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS ...AND YET--

PERHAPS IT WILL HELP TO CONVINCE THE *AVENGERS* OF OUR VALUE! I SHALL *DO* IT!

SECONDS LATER...

NO MATTER *HOW* FAST YOUR CHAUFFEUR DRIVES, MY BROTHER WILL BEAT HIM TO YOUR HOME, MR. STARK!

THIS IS TOO *EASY!* I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT MORE INTERESTING--!

INCREDIBLE! THE POLICE HAVE CLEARED THE HIGHWAY, ALLOWING US TO GO AT TOP SPEED, AND YET--

HE'S RACING AROUND US AS THOUGH WE'RE STANDING *STILL!*

DID YOU JUST SEE SOMETHING RACE BY, DEAR?

YES! AS FAST AS A *COMET!* IT LOOKED LIKE A HUMAN B-- OH, NO! THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!*

I'LL STOP AND GET MY BEARINGS NOW, SO THAT I DO NOT GET LOST IN THIS UNFAMILIAR NEIGHBOUR HOOD!

FINALLY...

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR TEN MINUTES, BOSS! DO YOU THINK WE LEFT HIM BEHIND? I WAS MAKING PRETTY GOOD TIME!

NOT A CHANCE, HAPPY! THERE HE IS, UP AHEAD, WAITING FOR US! HE BEAT US WITH *EASE!*

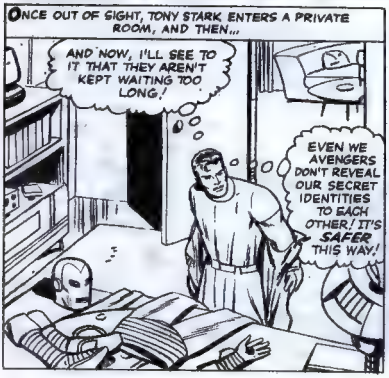
THEN, AFTER THE NEWSMEN HAVE RUSHED AWAY WITH THEIR PHOTOS...

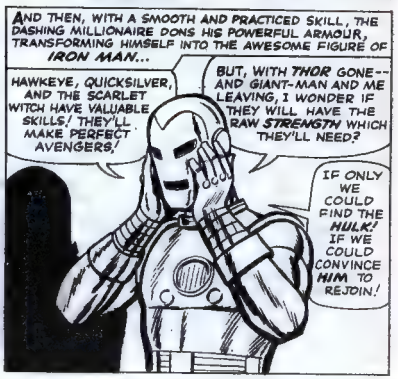
YOU'RE NOT EVEN BREATHING HARD! I HAVE A FEELING THE AVENGERS WILL BE VERY EAGER TO MEET YOU!

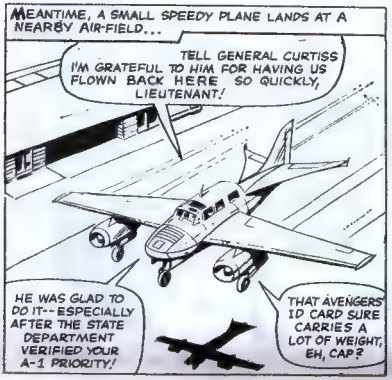
AND, THEY SHALL FIND MY SISTER'S *HEX POWER* EQUALLY INTERESTING!

THUS, THE COLOURFUL MUTANTS ARE USHERED INTO TONY STARK'S MANSION, WHERE THEY AWAIT THEIR COMING INTERVIEW...
IS IT REALLY TRUE THAT THE AVENGERS ARE BREAKING UP, MR. STARK?
NOT AT ALL, WANDA! IN FACT, FAR FROM IT! SOME OF THE MEMBERS MERELY WANT TO TAKE LEAVES OF ABSENCE!
BUT, THEY CANNOT DO IT UNTIL SATISFACTORY REPLACEMENTS ARE FOUND!

AND I BELIEVE THAT YOU TWO WILL QUALIFY IN THAT RESPECT! WELL, I MUST LEAVE YOU NOW! SINCE I'M NOT OFFICIALLY AN AVENGER, THERE'S NOTHING MORE I CAN DO HERE!
BUT, IF YOU SHOULD BE ACCEPTED, YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON ME FOR ANY ASSISTANCE WHICH MY WEALTH WILL ALLOW ME TO FURNISH! GOOD LUCK TO YOU BOTH!
THANK YOU, MR. STARK!
I TRUST OUR INTERVIEW WILL BE SOON! I AM ANXIOUS TO MEET THE FAMOUS AVENGERS!


ONCE OUT OF SIGHT, TONY STARK ENTERS A PRIVATE ROOM, AND THEN...
AND NOW, I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY AREN'T KEPT WAITING TOO LONG!
EVEN WE AVENGERS DON'T REVEAL OUR SECRET IDENTITIES TO EACH OTHER! IT'S SAFER THIS WAY!


AND THEN, WITH A SMOOTH AND PRACTICED SKILL, THE DASHING MILLIONAIRE DONS HIS POWERFUL ARMOUR, TRANSFORMING HIMSELF INTO THE AWESOME FIGURE OF IRON MAN...
HAWKEYE, QUICKSILVER, AND THE SCARLET WITCH HAVE VALUABLE SKILLS! THEY'LL MAKE PERFECT AVENGERS!
BUT, WITH THOR GONE-- AND GIANT-MAN AND ME LEAVING, I WONDER IF THEY WILL HAVE THE RAW STRENGTH WHICH THEY'LL NEED?
IF ONLY WE COULD FIND THE HULK! IF WE COULD CONVINCE HIM TO REJOIN!


MEANTIME, A SMALL SPEEDY PLANE LANDS AT A NEARBY AIR-FIELD...
TELL GENERAL CURTISS I'M GRATEFUL TO HIM FOR HAVING US FLOWN BACK HERE SO QUICKLY, LIEUTENANT!
HE WAS GLAD TO DO IT--ESPECIALLY AFTER THE STATE DEPARTMENT VERIFIED YOUR A-1 PRIORITY!
THAT AVENGERS' ID CARD SURE CARRIES A LOT OF WEIGHT, EH, CAP?

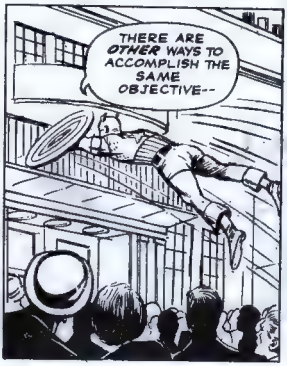
RENTING A CAR AT THE AIRPORT, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND HIS TEEN-AGE COMPANION EAGERLY HEAD FOR AVENGERS' HQ....
BOY! WAIT'LL THEY FIND OUT THAT ZEMO IS DEAD! AND YOU DID IT ALL ON YOUR LONESOME!
MEN WITH GALLANT RECORDS SUCH AS THE AVENGERS ARE NOT EASILY IMPRESSED, RICK!
THERE WAS A JOB TO BE DONE, AND I DID IT! THAT'S ALL!

MINUTES LATER, REACHING TONY STARK'S VAST MANSION, THEY FIND...

THERE'S A HUGE CROWD IN FRONT OF OUR HEADQUARTERS! SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED DURING OUR ABSENCE! I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF IT!

YOU PARK THE CAR AND THEN COME IN TO MEET ME, RICK! I WANT TO GET INSIDE WITHOUT WASTING A SECOND!

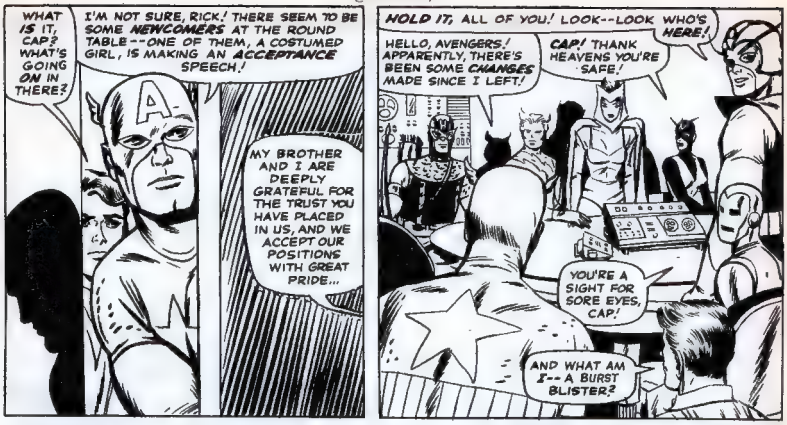
BUT, HOW WILL YOU EVER GET THROUGH THAT CROWD, CAP? THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS OF 'EM!



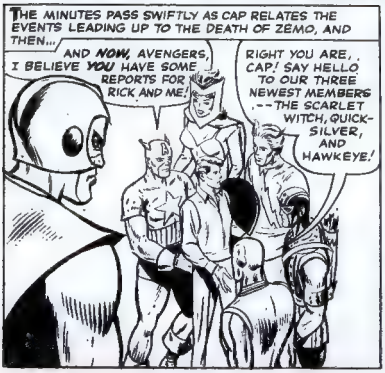
FINALLY, OUTSIDE THE AVENGERS' CONFERENCE ROOM...

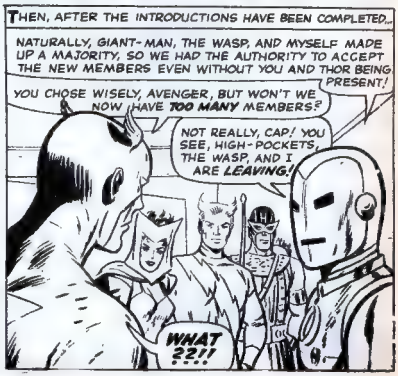
GOSH, CAP, THEY'RE STILL TALKINGABOUT THAT LEAP OF YOURS! YOU SURE GAVE THAT CROWD SOMETHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT!

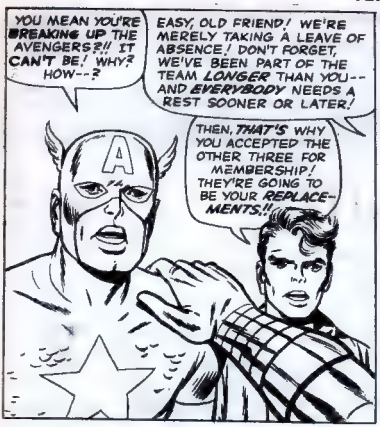
LUCKILY, THERE IS NO EMERGENCY INSIDE, RICK! THAT'S WHY I WAITED FOR YOU! NOW, LET'S GO IN AND GIVE OUR REPORT, AND FIND OUT THE REASON FOR THE GATHERING OUTSIDE!

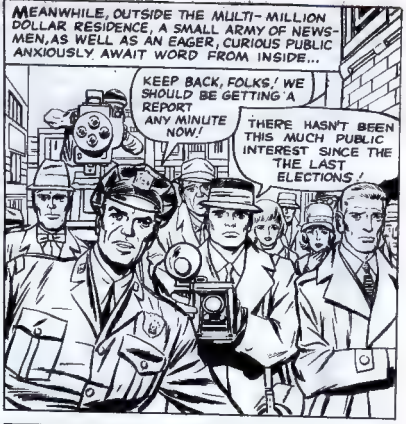

WHAT IS IT, CAP? WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?
I'M NOT SURE, RICK! THERE SEEM TO BE SOME NEWCOMERS AT THE ROUND TABLE--ONE OF THEM, A COSTUMED GIRL, IS MAKING AN ACCEPTANCE SPEECH!
MY BROTHER AND I ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE TRUST YOU HAVE PLACED IN US, AND WE ACCEPT OUR POSITIONS WITH GREAT PRIDE...
HOLD IT, ALL OF YOU! LOOK--LOOK WHO'S HERE!
HELLO, AVENGERS! APPARENTLY, THERE'S BEEN SOME CHANGES MADE SINCE I LEFT!
CAP! THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE SAFE!
YOU'RE A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES, CAP!
AND WHAT AM I--A BURST BLISTER?

BOY, ARE WE GLAD TO SEE YOU, YOU OLD SHIELD-SPINNING SCALLIWAG!
WHOA THERE, BIG BOY! I APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM, BUT--
--I'D BE JUST AS IMPRESSED BY A HANDSHAKE! C'MON, LET ME DOWN BEFORE YOU END UP WITH AN AIR-SICK AVENGER!
EASY, BLUE EYES! IF YOU DROP HIM, WE MAY LOSE OUT ON OUR VACATION!
EASY, YOU BIG CLOWN! KNOCK IT OFF! I WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT CAP'S BATTLE WITH ZEMO!
HOW DIFFERENT IS THEIR COMRADESHIP FROM THE FEAR AND DISTRUST OF THE EVIL MUTANTS!
I FEEL WE SHALL BE MOST HAPPY HERE IN THE COMPANY OF ADVENTURERS SUCH AS THESE, MY SISTER!

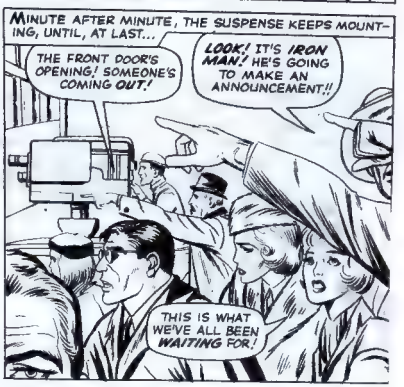

THE MINUTES PASS SWIFTLY AS CAP RELATES THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE DEATH OF ZEMO, AND THEN...
AND NOW, AVENGERS, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOME REPORTS FOR RICK AND ME!
RIGHT YOU ARE, CAP! SAY HELLO TO OUR THREE NEWEST MEMBERS--THE SCARLET WITCH, QUICK-SILVER, AND HAWKEYE!

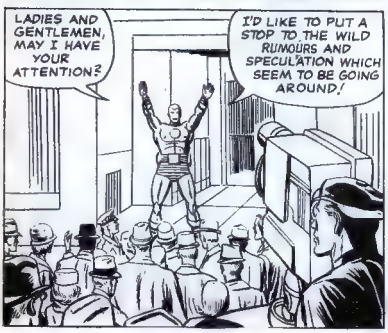

THEN, AFTER THE INTRODUCTIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED...
NATURALLY, GIANT-MAN, THE WASP, AND MYSELF MADE UP A MAJORITY, SO WE HAD THE AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT THE NEW MEMBERS EVEN WITHOUT YOU AND THOR BEING PRESENT!
YOU CHOSE WISELY, AVENGER, BUT WON'T WE NOW HAVE TOO MANY MEMBERS?
NOT REALLY, CAP! YOU SEE, HIGH-POCKETS, THE WASP, AND I ARE LEAVING!
WHAT ??!!

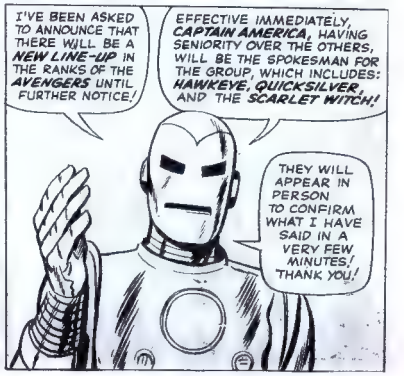

YOU MEAN YOU'RE BREAKING UP THE AVENGERS?! IT CAN'T BE! WHY? HOW--?
EASY, OLD FRIEND! WE'RE MERELY TAKING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE! DON'T FORGET, WE'VE BEEN PART OF THE TEAM LONGER THAN YOU--AND EVERYBODY NEEDS A REST SOONER OR LATER!
THEN, THAT'S WHY YOU ACCEPTED THE OTHER THREE FOR MEMBERSHIP! THEY'RE GOING TO BE YOUR REPLACEMENTS!!

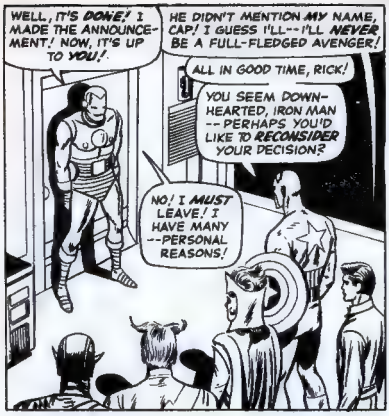

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR RESIDENCE, A SMALL ARMY OF NEWSMEN, AS WELL AS AN EAGER, CURIOUS PUBLIC ANXIOUSLY AWAIT WORD FROM INSIDE...
KEEP BACK, FOLKS! WE SHOULD BE GETTING A REPORT ANY MINUTE NOW!
THERE HASN'T BEEN THIS MUCH PUBLIC INTEREST SINCE THE THE LAST ELECTIONS!

BUT, THE AFFAIRS OF THE AVENGERS ARE OF GREAT CONCERN TO OTHERS BESIDES THE AVERAGE LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS! OTHERS, SUCH AS--
WILL THE AVENGERS BECOME WEAKER--OR STRONGER?
NO MATTER NOW THEY CHANGE THEIR ROSTER, THEY MUST BE DESTROYED!
I MUST FOLLOW EVERY DEVELOPMENT--FOR SOON I SHALL STRIKE AGAIN!
I ALMOST DEFEATED THEM ONCE--NEXT TIME I SHALL NOT FAIL!
THE AVENGERS!! I SHALL NEVER REST UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED FOREVER!

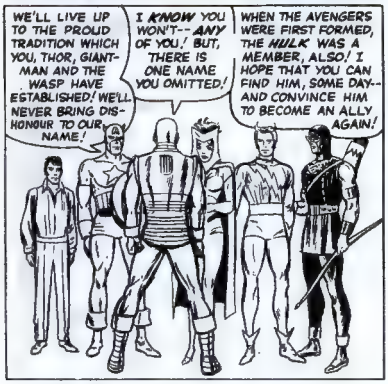

MINUTE AFTER MINUTE, THE SUSPENSE KEEPS MOUNTING, UNTIL, AT LAST...
THE FRONT DOOR'S OPENING! SOMEONE'S COMING OUT!
LOOK! IT'S IRON MAN! HE'S GOING TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT!!
THIS IS WHAT WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR!


LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION?
I'D LIKE TO PUT A STOP TO THE WILD RUMOURS AND SPECULATION WHICH SEEM TO BE GOING AROUND!


I'VE BEEN ASKED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THERE WILL BE A NEW LINE-UP IN THE RANKS OF THE AVENGERS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, CAPTAIN AMERICA, HAVING SENIORITY OVER THE OTHERS, WILL BE THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE GROUP, WHICH INCLUDES: HAWKEYE, QUICKSILVER, AND THE SCARLET WITCH!
THEY WILL APPEAR IN PERSON TO CONFIRM WHAT I HAVE SAID IN A VERY FEW MINUTES! THANK YOU!

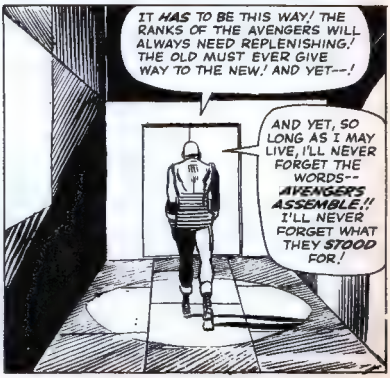

WELL, IT'S DONE! I MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT! NOW, IT'S UP TO YOU!
HE DIDN'T MENTION MY NAME, CAP! I GUESS I'LL--I'LL NEVER BE A FULL-FLEDGED AVENGER!
ALL IN GOOD TIME, RICK!
YOU SEEM DOWN-HEARTED, IRON MAN--PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION?
NO! I MUST LEAVE! I HAVE MANY--PERSONAL REASONS!

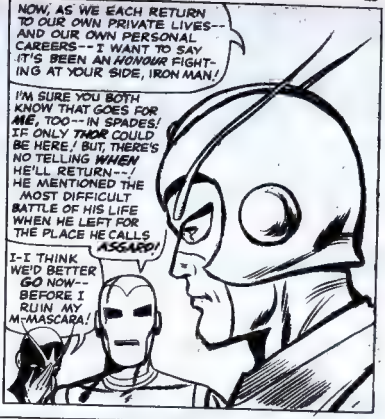
BUT, I SUDDENLY REALIZE HOW MUCH MY MEMBERSHIP HAS MEANT TO ME--HOW MUCH I'LL MISS YOU--! IT IS NOT EASY TO STOP BEING--AN AVENGER!
YOU'LL NEVER STOP BEING AN AVENGER! SOONER OR LATER, YOU'LL REJOIN THE RANKS--AND YOUR PLACE WILL ALWAYS BE WAITING FOR YOU!


WE'LL LIVE UP TO THE PROUD TRADITION WHICH YOU, THOR, GIANT-MAN AND THE WASP HAVE ESTABLISHED! WE'LL NEVER BRING DISHONOUR TO OUR NAME!
I KNOW YOU WON'T--ANY OF YOU! BUT, THERE IS ONE NAME YOU OMITTED!
WHEN THE AVENGERS WERE FIRST FORMED, THE HULK WAS A MEMBER, ALSO! I HOPE THAT YOU CAN FIND HIM, SOME DAY--AND CONVINCE HIM TO BECOME AN ALLY AGAIN!

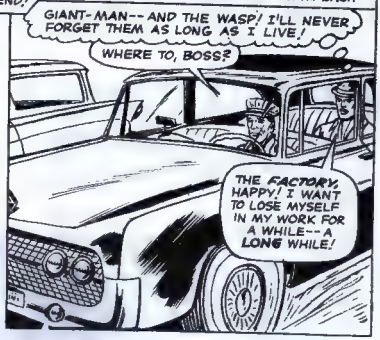
DESPITE ALL YOUR SKILLS, AWESOME STRENGTH SUCH AS HIS COULD BE YOUR GREATEST ASSET! THE LAST WORD OF ADVICE I CAN LEAVE WITH YOU IS--FIND THE HULK!
AND NOW, IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO APPEAR BEFORE THE PUBLIC, AS A TEAM, FOR THE FIRST TIME! GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL!

HERE THEY COME!!
IT'S THE NEW AVENGERS! HOORAY!!
STRANGE THAT CAPTAIN AMERICA, WHO SEEMS TO POSSESS NO NOTICEABLE SUPER POWER, SHOULD BE CHOSEN AS OUR LEADER! OH WELL....!
I'VE DONE ALL I CAN! THE LIMELIGHT BELONGS TO YOU NOW! THE MANTLE HAS BEEN PASSED TO A NEW AND YOUNGER GROUP--MAY YOU ALL WEAR IT WITH PRIDE, AND HONOUR!


IT HAS TO BE THIS WAY! THE RANKS OF THE AVENGERS WILL ALWAYS NEED REPLENISHING! THE OLD MUST EVER GIVE WAY TO THE NEW! AND YET--!
AND YET, SO LONG AS I MAY LIVE, I'LL NEVER FORGET THE WORDS--AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!! I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT THEY STOOD FOR!



AND SO, WITHOUT ANY FURTHER WORDS, THE GOLDEN AVENGER AND TOWERING TITAN, TOGETHER WITH THE WONDERFUL, FLYING WASP, TAKE THEIR LEAVE OF EACH OTHER, EACH DEPARTING BY A SEPARATE EXIT... EACH RESPECTING THE OTHER'S SECRET IDENTITY TILL THE VERY END!



NEXT WEEK: THE ACTION-PACKED THRILLER YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! "THE SEARCH FOR THE HULK!!"

MONTHS IN PREPARATION! TRULY AN EPIC! 'NUFF SAID!

3 Great colour-packed ANNUALS

NOW READY!

OH BOY! ARE THEY SUPER!

SMASH! ANNUAL 1968

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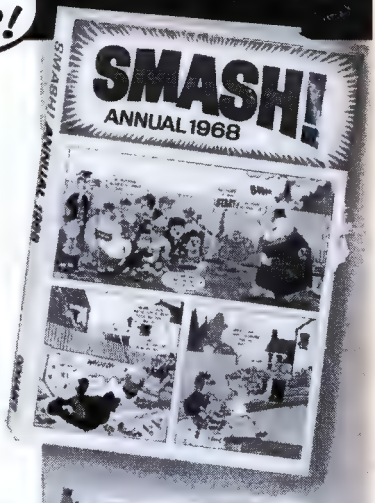
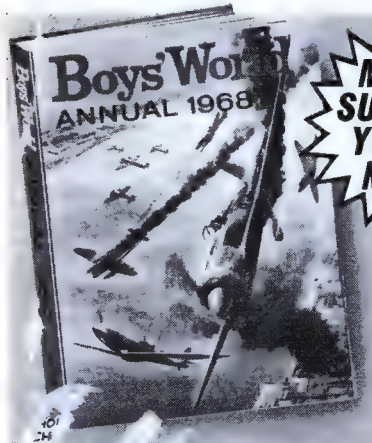
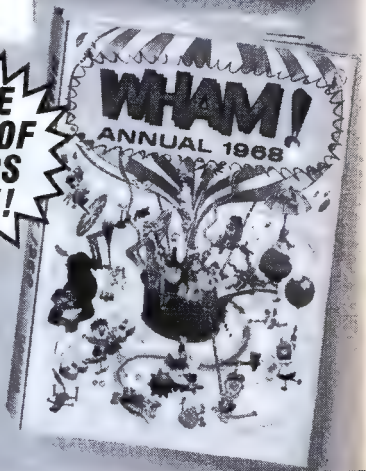




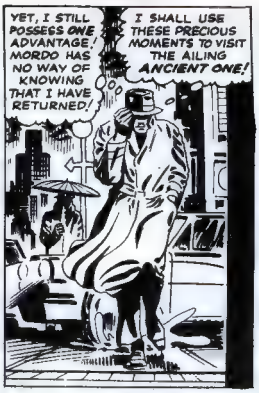
MAKE SURE OF YOURS NOW!



NOW SAVE AT ALL NEWSAGENTS AND BOOKSELLERS!

Dr. STRANGE
MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!
EARTH BE MY BATTLEGROUND
AT LONG LAST, AFTER AN OCCULT JOURNEY THROUGH NAMELESS DIMENSIONS, WEARY AND SICK AT HEART, DR. STRANGE RETURNS TO HIS NATIVE WORLD--REALIZING THE TIME HAS COME TO FACE EVIL BARON MORDO ONCE MORE!
MY JOURNEY IS ENDED! I'VE BRIDGED THE ENDLESS GAP BETWEEN DIMENSIONS! I'M BACK ON EARTH!
Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group. 1965

I'LL RETRIEVE MY STREET CLOTHES WHERE I LEFT THEM!
BUT, I CANNOT YET RETURN TO MY DWELLING, FOR MORDO'S DEMONS ARE STILL ON GUARD!


YET, I STILL POSSESS ONE ADVANTAGE! MORDO HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT I HAVE RETURNED!
I SHALL USE THESE PRECIOUS MOMENTS TO VISIT THE AILING ANCIENT ONE!

MINUTES LATER...
FIRST, I NEED A HAVEN--A PLACE WHERE MY BODY WILL BE SAFE!
THIS SIDESTREET HOTEL WILL SERVE THE PURPOSE AS WELL AS ANY OTHER! ALL I NEED DO IS DRAW THE BLINDS!

AND NOW, WHILE MY HELPLESS PHYSICAL BODY REMAINS TOTALLY MOTIONLESS, MY ECTOPLASMIC SPIRIT FORM SHALL FLY TO THE SANCTUM OF MY VENERABLE MASTER!

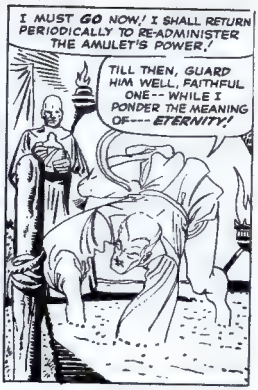
THE QUICKEST WAY TO REACH TIBET IS BY JOURNEYING THROUGH THE CORE OF EARTH!
FORTUNATELY, NO HUMANS CAN SEE ME WHILE I OCCUPY MY SPIRIT FORM!

TIME, DISTANCE, AND PHYSICAL OBSTACLES ARE VIRTUALLY MEANINGLESS TO ONE'S ECTOPLASMIC FORM! THUS, SCANT SECONDS LATER...
I HAVE ARRIVED!
BY THE SEVEN RINGS OF RAGGADORR, LET MY FORM BE VISIBLE TO THOSE WITHIN THIS CHAMBER!
YOUNG MASTER! YOU HAVE RETURNED! THE VISHANTI BE PRAISED!

THE ANCIENT ONE HAS BEEN IN A COMA SINCE YOU LEFT! EACH DAY HE GROWS WEAKER!
BUT, IT IS BEYOND MY POOR POWERS TO AID HIM! I COULD ONLY PRAY FOR YOUR RETURN!
HE IS WEAK! HE NEEDS STRENGTH!

MANY TIMES, IN HIS COMA, HE MUTTERED A WORD--ONLY ONE WORD, OVER AND OVER AGAIN! THE WORD-- ETERNITY!
NO TIME FOR THAT NOW! I MUST REPLENISH HIS STRENGTH QUICKLY-- BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

LET THE POWER OF MY ENCHANTED AMULET BATHE THEE, VENERABLE MASTER! LET ITS STRENGTH BECOME THY STRENGTH!
ENOUGH! TOO STRONG A DOSE COULD PROVE FATAL!

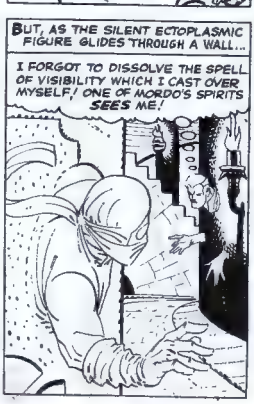

I MUST GO NOW! I SHALL RETURN PERIODICALLY TO RE-ADMINISTER THE AMULET'S POWER!
TILL THEN, GUARD HIM WELL, FAITHFUL ONE-- WHILE I PONDER THE MEANING OF--- ETERNITY!

MORDO'S EVIL SPIRITS STILL SEARCH THE CAVERNS BENEATH THIS LAND, SEEKING THE ANCIENT ONE! MAY THE VAPOURS OF VALTORR BLIND THEIR EYES!

HERE, WITHIN THE MASTER'S NOW-DESERTED RETREAT, AMONG HIS BOOKS AND PAPERS, I MAY FIND WHAT I SEEK!
MORDO HAS TOUCHED NOTHING! HE CARES NAUGHT FOR KNOWLEDGE --ONLY FOR POWER!

THEN, USING THE UNCANNY POWER OF HIS AMULET'S MYSTIC EYE, THE MASTER OF ALL MAGIC SCANS EVERY VOLUME WITHOUT TOUCHING A PAGE, BUT TO NO AVAIL!
IT IS NO USE! THERE IS NO REFERENCE TO ETERNITY!

AND, AS THE EYE RETURNS TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE WITHIN THE ENCHANTED GEM...
IF THE MASTER SAID IT, IT MUST BE IMPORTANT! I SHALL NOT REST TILL I LEARN ITS MEANING!

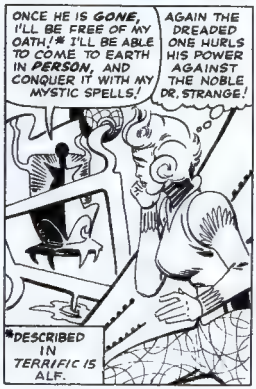

BUT, AS THE SILENT ECTOPLASMIC FIGURE GLIDES THROUGH A WALL...
I FORGOT TO DISSOLVE THE SPELL OF VISIBILITY WHICH I CAST OVER MYSELF! ONE OF MORDO'S SPIRITS SEES ME!

AND, AT THAT VERY INSTANT...
A SIGNAL! ONE OF MY SPIRITS HAS FOUND HIM! AT LAST!

INSTANTLY, BARON MORDO ALSO RESORTS TO HIS SPIRIT FORM, AND THEN...
AFTER HIM, MORDO! HAVE NO FEAR! I, THE DREAD DORMAMMU, SHALL FEED YOU ENDLESS MYSTIC POWER AS YOU NEED IT!

THUS, WITHIN SECONDS, THE EVIL MORDO SIGHTS HIS QUARRY--!
I SEE HIM! DIRECTLY AHEAD!
MORDO! WITH HIS SPIRITS! I'M TRAPPED!

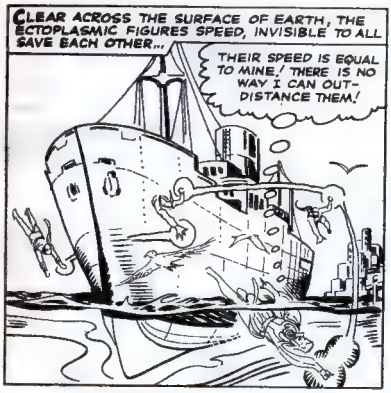
AND, AN INDESCRIBABLE DISTANCE AWAY, IN THE MACABRE DARK DIMENSION, DORMAMMU WATCHES HUNGRILY...
MORDO MUST TRIUMPH THIS TIME! I MUST HAVE STRANGE DEAD!


ONCE HE IS GONE, I'LL BE FREE OF MY OATH!* I'LL BE ABLE TO COME TO EARTH IN PERSON, AND CONQUER IT WITH MY MYSTIC SPELLS!
AGAIN THE DREADED ONE HURLS HIS POWER AGAINST THE NOBLE DR. STRANGE!
*DESCRIBED IN TERRIFIC IS ALF.

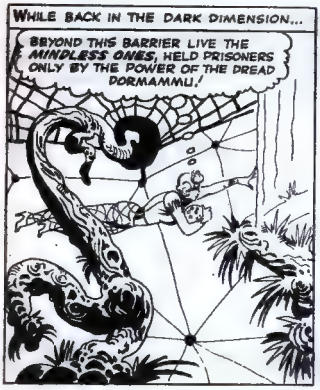
DR. STRANGE BEFRIENDED ME! I MUST AID HIM NOW! THERE IS ONLY ONE THING THAT CAN SAVE HIM!
NO MATTER WHAT THE COST--I MUST DO IT!

MEANWHILE...
IT'S TOO CRAMPED DOWN HERE! I MUST BATTLE MY WAY TO THE SURFACE ONCE MORE--I CAN BE TOO EASILY TRAPPED WITHIN THESE CAVERNS.

YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME THIS TIME, STRANGE! THERE IS NO PLACE YOU CAN GO WHERE I CANNOT FOLLOW!


CLEAR ACROSS THE SURFACE OF EARTH, THE ECTOPLASMIC FIGURES SPEED, INVISIBLE TO ALL SAVE EACH OTHER...
THEIR SPEED IS EQUAL TO MINE! THERE IS NO WAY I CAN OUT-DISTANCE THEM!

AND MORDO CAN TRANSFER HIS POWER TO ANY OF HIS SPIRITS AT WILL! SO THEY ARE ALL EQUALLY STRONG!
BUT, I MUST NOT DESPAIR! TOO MUCH IS AT STAKE!


WHILE BACK IN THE DARK DIMENSION...
BEYOND THIS BARRIER LIVE THE MINDLESS ONES, HELD PRISONERS ONLY BY THE POWER OF THE DREAD DORMAMMU!

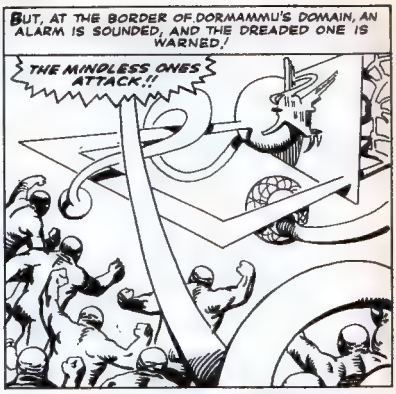
"THE MINDLESS ONES!" BRAINLESS CREATURES OF ALMOST INCALCULABLE POWER, LIVING ONLY TO FIGHT, TO RAVAGE, TO DESTROY!!

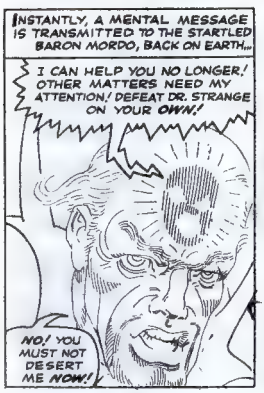
ONLY DORMAMMU'S MYSTIC BARRIER KEEP THEM AT BAY! BUT, THIS DEVICE WHICH I HAVE SEIZED, CAN WEAKEN THE BARRIER--!

I SHALL LEAVE IT THERE, WHILE I FLEE! EACH SECOND IT WILL MAKE THE SHIELD WEAKER, AND WEAKER...

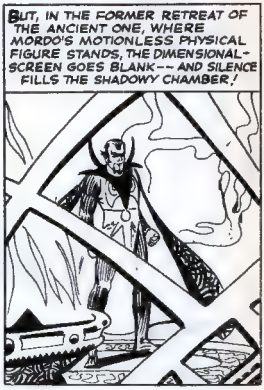
UNTIL, AT LAST, THE MINDLESS ONES BREAK THROUGH TO RAVAGE THE DARK DIMENSION AT WILL!!

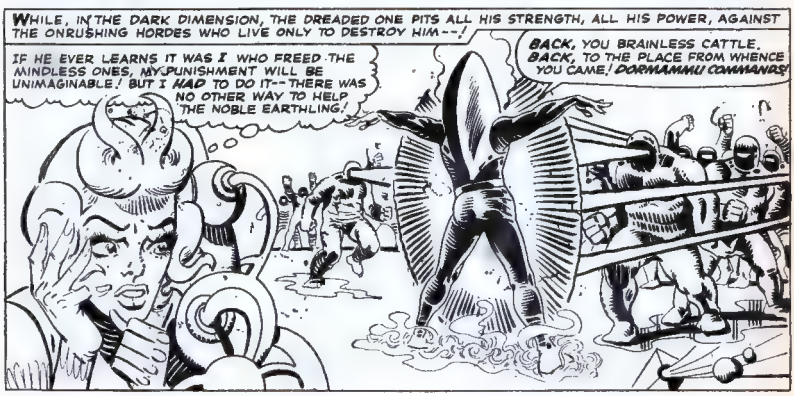
LIKE A HORDE OF RAMPAGING, LIVING DREADNOUGHTS, THE UNTHINKING CREATURES CHARGE FORWARD, HUNGERING FOR THE FURY OF BATTLE!

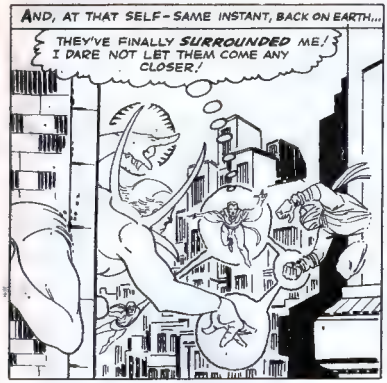

BUT, AT THE BORDER OF DORMAMMU'S DOMAIN, AN ALARM IS SOUNDED, AND THE DREADED ONE IS WARNED!
THE MINDLESS ONES ATTACK!!

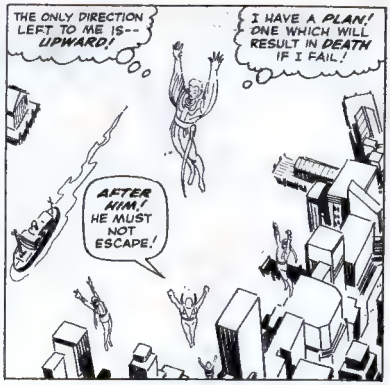

INSTANTLY, A MENTAL MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED TO THE STARTLED BARON MORDO, BACK ON EARTH...
I CAN HELP YOU NO LONGER! OTHER MATTERS NEED MY ATTENTION! DEFEAT DR. STRANGE ON YOUR OWN!
NO! YOU MUST NOT DESERT ME NOW!

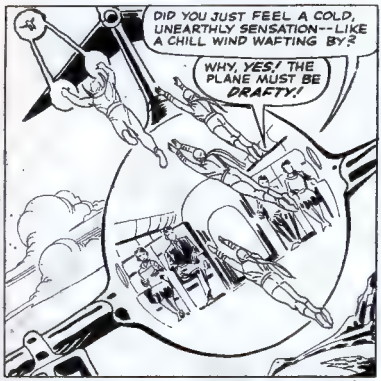
I MUST! BUT STRANGE WILL NOT KNOW YOU ARE LESS POWERFUL! YOU CAN STILL DEFEAT HIM!
DORMAMMU! DORMAMMU! WAIT! COME BACK! COME BACK!


BUT, IN THE FORMER RETREAT OF THE ANCIENT ONE, WHERE MORDO'S MOTIONLESS PHYSICAL FIGURE STANDS, THE DIMENSIONAL-SCREEN GOES BLANK -- AND SILENCE FILLS THE SHADOWY CHAMBER!


WHILE, IN THE DARK DIMENSION, THE DREADED ONE PITS ALL HIS STRENGTH, ALL HIS POWER, AGAINST THE ONRUSHING HORDES WHO LIVE ONLY TO DESTROY HIM --!
IF HE EVER LEARNS IT WAS I WHO FREED THE MINDLESS ONES, MY PUNISHMENT WILL BE UNIMAGINABLE! BUT I HAD TO DO IT -- THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY TO HELP THE NOBLE EARTHLING!
BACK, YOU BRAINLESS CATTLE. BACK, TO THE PLACE FROM WHENCE YOU CAME! DORMAMMU COMMANDS!


AND, AT THAT SELF-SAME INSTANT, BACK ON EARTH...
THEY'VE FINALLY SURROUNDED ME! I DARE NOT LET THEM COME ANY CLOSER!


THE ONLY DIRECTION LEFT TO ME IS-- UPWARD!
I HAVE A PLAN! ONE WHICH WILL RESULT IN DEATH IF I FAIL!
AFTER HIM! HE MUST NOT ESCAPE!


DID YOU JUST FEEL A COLD, UNEARTHLY SENSATION--LIKE A CHILL WIND WAFTING BY?
WHY, YES! THE PLANE MUST BE DRAFTY!

I MUST GO HIGHER--HIGHER! PAST EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE--PAST THE MOON--RIGHT TO THE CENTRE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM!

HAS HE GONE MAD?? HE'S HEADING RIGHT INTO THE SUN ITSELF!

HEAT ALONE CANNOT AFFECT OUR ECTOPLASMIC FORMS, BUT THE ATOMIC ENERGY AT THE SUN'S CORE CAN BRING ABOUT A CHEMICAL CHANGE WHICH COULD PROVE FATAL TO A SPIRIT FORM!
FOLLOW ME, MORDO --IF YOU DARE! FOR, IF WE BOTH PERISH, EARTH WILL BE FREE OF YOUR MENACE AND THE ANCIENT ONE WILL BE SAFE!

MY SPIRITS FALL BACK! THEY FEAR WHAT AWAITS THEM! BUT I MUST GO ON!
I'VE COME SO CLOSE! I CAN'T FAIL NOW!

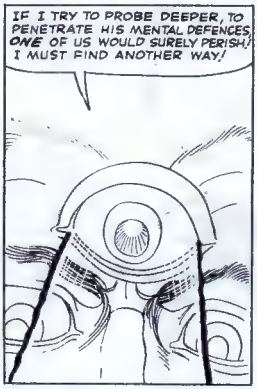
NOW THEY TURN--THEY'RE DESERTING ME COMPLETELY! BUT--THEY WOULD NOT DARE SUCH BEHAVIOR UNLESS THEY CAN SENSE I AM DOOMED!
BAH! WHAT AM I THINKING! NONE CAN DEFEAT ME!
YOUR SCHEME DID NOT WORK, STRANGE! YOU CANNOT LOSE ME! WHEREVER YOU GO, I'LL FOLLOW, UNTIL YOU ARE DESTROYED!
NO, MORDO--NOT JUST I--BOTH OF US! FOR I SHALL FLY DIRECTLY INTO THE CORE OF THE SUN--- AND I'LL TAKE YOU WITH ME!
IT MEANS CERTAIN DEATH! UNLESS--WHAT IF IT IS A TRICK? WHAT IF HE KNOWS A SPELL TO PROTECT HIMSELF!
THAT MUST BE IT! HE PLANS TO LURE ME TO MY DEATH! BUT, I'M TOO SMART FOR HIM! HE CANNOT TRAP ME!
NO, STRANGE--I SHALL NOT FOLLOW YOU!
YOU CANNOT TRICK ME SO EASILY! I'LL WAIT FOR YOU ON EARTH, AND ATTACK YOU AGAIN AT MY LEISURE!
I'LL WAIT UNTIL DORMAMMU BESTOWS HIS OWN AWESOME POWER UPON ME AGAIN! I DARE NOT DEFY DR. STRANGE WITHOUT IT!
IT WORKED! HE'S FLEEING!
NOW, I, TOO, CAN RETURN TO EARTH! THE SHADES OF THE SERAPHIM HAVE BEEN MERCIFUL TO ME!
BUT, I SHALL RETURN BY A DIFFERENT ROUTE! WITH LUCK, IT WILL BE DAYS BEFORE MORDO FINDS ME AGAIN!
MINUTES LATER, IN TIBET...
HOW FARES THE MASTER, FAITHFUL ONE?
HE IS BETTER, DR. STRANGE! YOUR AMULET HAS STRENGTHENED HIM, THOUGH HE IS STILL IN A COMA!

IT IS TIME TO REPEAT THE TREATMENT, WITH A STRONGER INTENSITY NOW!
BEHOLD! HE TRIES TO SPEAK! LISTEN...!
ETERNITY! YOU MUST FIND-- ETERNITY!

HE IS SILENT AGAIN! THE STRAIN HAS WEAKENED HIM!
PERHAPS I CAN PROBE HIS MIND WITH MY MYSTIC EYE, AND LEARN THE MEANING OF ETERNITY!

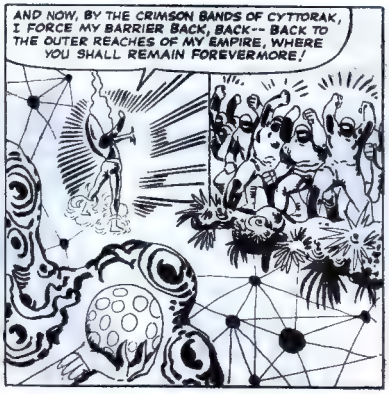
GENTLY-- GENTLY-- THE SLIGHTEST ERROR IN PRESSURE COULD CAUSE UNTOLD BRAIN DAMAGE--!

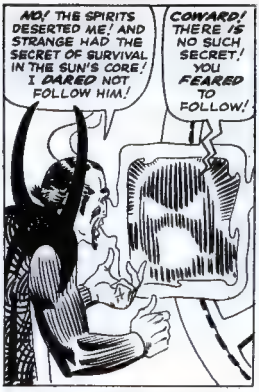
IT IS NO USE! HE IS IN A COMA AGAIN! AND HIS MIND IS LOCKED, IN A MYSTIC DEFENCE!

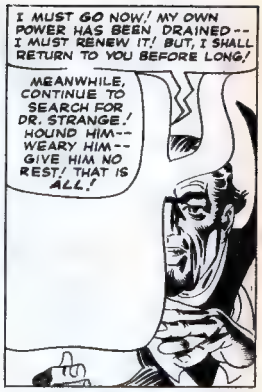

IF I TRY TO PROBE DEEPER, TO PENETRATE HIS MENTAL DEFENCES, ONE OF US WOULD SURELY PERISH! I MUST FIND ANOTHER WAY!

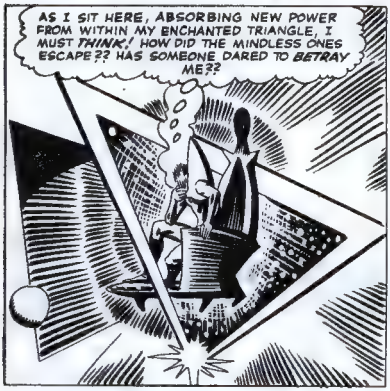
THERE ARE OTHERS ON EARTH WHO MAY KNOW THE MEANING OF ETERNITY! I MUST SEEK THEM OUT!
FOR, I FEEL THAT HE WAS TRYING TO GIVE ME THE ONE WEAPON I NEED TO DEFEAT EVIL MORDO FOREVER!

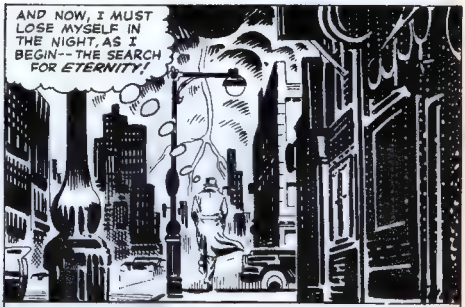
AND, AS THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS AGAIN LEAVES THE SANCTUARY IN TIBET---
THERE! ONLY THE DREAD DORMAMMU COULD HAVE MENTALLY ERECTED A NEW BARRIER TO CONFINE YOU ONCE MORE!


AND NOW, BY THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTTORAK, I FORCE MY BARRIER BACK, BACK-- BACK TO THE OUTER REACHES OF MY EMPIRE, WHERE YOU SHALL REMAIN FOREVERMORE!









NEXT WEEK WE CONTINUE THE MOST BIZARRE TALE IN COMIC MAGAZINE HISTORY AS DR. STRANGE EXPLORES ONCE MORE THE WORLD OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! TILL THEN, MAY THE ETERNAL VISHANTI SOFTLY SPEAK YOUR NAME!

TERRIFIC NEWS!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO :—
TERRIFIC
64, LONG ACRE
LONDON, W.C.2

Dear Alf and Bart,
Since TERRIFIC was published I'm wondering about the Thunder God Thor being Don Blake. For if he just became Thor a few years ago, that must mean before that Odin had no son and Loki had no half-brother ! Please could I have an explanation ?
James Harkins,
Airdrie, Lanarks.

Although Don Blake "became" Thor recently the Thunder God has of course existed since time immemorial. But what mortal can begin to unravel the mysteries of Asgard? 1. As far as we on Earth know, Thor is the only Norse God with a mortal alias. 2. He dwells on Earth by order of his father Odin in order to protect us. 3. The reason he has a mortal alias is UNKNOWN. 4. As there is no record of Thor having been seen in modern times, it is assumed that he was actually living in Asgard up until the time that Blake first banged the stick.
Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
I decided to write to you and I sat down to think of a good subject. Should I try to find a mistake and bring it to your attention ? No ; even if I did find one, chances are lots of other readers would write in about it, too. Should I just compliment you on a great issue ? When you write such terrific stories compliments probably come in by the thousands. So, I end up with absolutely nothing to say ! Do I get £1 for a letter that says nothing ?
Stephen Secular,
Palmers Green, London.

Yes !
Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
In FANTASTIC and TERRIFIC which I order each week the super powered heroes and the immortals all tend to respect their enemies and say that they have never come across so powerful a menace. This happens each week.
I propose that in the floor of 64 you say once and for all who is the greatest villain of all time.
Also lets have some giant machines destroying villages and towns.
Yours,
Michael Jones (12),
Birmingham.

It's not just good manners that makes our heroes respect the Power House villains, because often the villain of a story is more powerful than the good guy—and then it's only raw courage and quick thinking that defeats him. There's a giant machine on its way to Birmingham even now, Mike, have fun !
Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
Here are a few suggestions for TERRIFIC :
The Sub-Mariner : 20 pages.
The Avengers : 20 pages.
Terrific News : 2 pages.
Frantic Fun : 1 page.
Dr. Strange : 16 pages.
The Drama of Doom : 4 pages.
News from the floor of 64 : 1 page.
Competitions etc. : 2 pages.
Philip Corcoran,
Bristol.

Great Ideas, Philip, but it would mean that TERRIFIC would cost twice as much—and probably take twice as long to prepare, coming out only once every two weeks—so you wouldn't really gain anything, would you ?
Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
In TERRIFIC 14, Prince Namor was fighting Iron Man. On page 8 the top pic. shows Iron Man with his mouth in a frown. But how could he have bent the metal when it wasn't even touching his face ?
Yours critically,
S. Lewis,
East Grinstead,
Sussex.

Tin head's mouth socket does bend down at both ends in most of his helmets. So the particular pic you pointed out is quite correct, S.L. . . . . Sometimes, however—artists being artists—the slit does alter its shape slightly to suit a mood. But so far we've never seen him smile !
Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
By the dreaded domain of Dormammu,
I pen this precious piece to you.
I dig your daring Doctor Strange
And begingly pray he'll not be changed,
For a Brand X Hero, weak and small,
They're never any good at all).
Each Saturday I wait and wait,
Until the newsagent is open at half past eight.
Your comics keep coming
(Don't you ever snooze)
So please print my letter,
in TERRIFIC News !
Timothy Smidmore,
North Tawton, Devon.

Snooze ! By the ever open eyelids of the Watcher we haven't slept since we last read a Brand X !
Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
If you can understand my writing you can see I've asked a question.
Is Odin a higher power than the dreaded Dormammu ?
Thus I shall end this strange letter and before I leave (with the aid of my mystic powers) I'll say that I am a Dr. Strange fan.
Robert Lewis, 13,
Ebbw Vale, Mon.

Odin and Dormammu inhabit such entirely different dimensions—separated by incredible barriers of time and space that we just won't know which of them is the most powerful until they battle each other !
Alf and Bart.

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PLEASE SEND ME THE FREE GREAT BRITAIN PACKET AND APPROVALS. I ENCLOSE 4d. POSTAGE.

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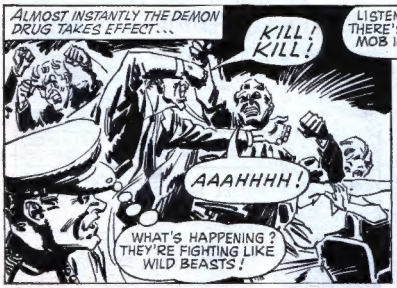
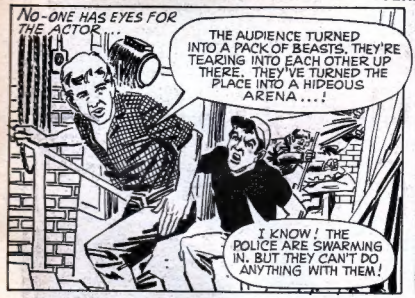
TERRIFIC

THE DRAMA OF DOOM

AN EVIL MASTER-CRIMINAL CALLED THE ACTOR THREATENS THE SAFETY OF EVERY INNOCENT BRITISH LIFE. ONLY SPECIAL AGENT DON STARR CANNOT BE HARMED BY THE ACTOR'S POISON-TIPPED DARTS WHICH TURN MEN INTO RAVING KILL-CRAZY BEASTS. BUT HOW TO FIND THIS MUMMER OF MALEVOLENCE? HOW TO BRING THE ACTOR OUT INTO THE OPEN? THIS IS DON'S PROBLEM...




NO-ONE HAS EYES FOR THE ACTOR...
THE AUDIENCE TURNED INTO A PACK OF BEASTS. THEY'RE TEARING INTO EACH OTHER UP THERE. THEY'VE TURNED THE PLACE INTO A HIDEOUS ARENA....!
I KNOW! THE POLICE ARE SWARMING IN. BUT THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH THEM!

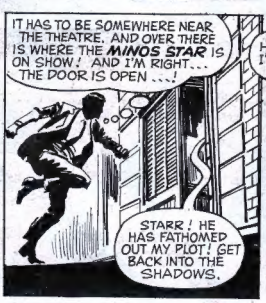
JEWELLERY
THERE IS OUR DESTINATION, HEADHUNTER. AND WITH THE DIVERSION I HAVE CREATED, NO-ONE WILL EVEN SEE US!

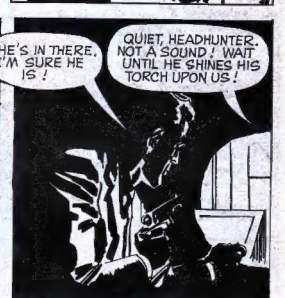
A LASER BEAM MAKES SHORT WORK OF THE LOCK..
I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY POLICE. IT MUST BE TERRIBLE IN THERE!
THIS IS INDEED A NIGHT TO BE REMEMBERED. IN THE FIELD OF DRAMA AS WELL AS CRIME, I HAVE PROVED THAT I AM THE MASTER.

TWO MINUTES LATER...
THE MINOS STAR! THE BIGGEST UNCUT DIAMOND IN THE WORLD. HERE IS WEALTH BEYOND DREAMS, HEADHUNTER. NOW THIS STAR IS MINE. IF ONLY I HAD THAT OTHER STARR... DON STARR. MY JOY WOULD BE COMPLETE!
PUT ON THIS MASK, THE POLICE ARE GOING TO SPRAY THE THEATRE WITH KNOCK-OUT GAS!

BACK IN THE THEATRE...
HE WAS HERE. HE TURNED THE TABLES ON US. IT'S TAKEN HALF THE POLICE FORCE IN LONDON TO PUT A HALT TO HIS FIENDISH WORK...!

SUDDENLY DON REALISES...
HALF THE POLICE FORCE! THAT MUST BE THE ANSWER. THERE'S NO OTHER SANE REASON. THIS WAS JUST SOMETHING TO TAKE THE ATTENTION OF THE LAW AWAY FROM SOMETHING ELSE... AND I THINK I KNOW WHAT!


IT HAS TO BE SOMEWHERE NEAR THE THEATRE. AND OVER THERE IS WHERE THE MINOS STAR IS ON SHOW! AND I'M RIGHT... THE DOOR IS OPEN ...!
STARR! HE HAS FATHOMED OUT MY PLOT! GET BACK INTO THE SHADOWS.


HE'S IN THERE. I'M SURE HE IS!
QUIET, HEADHUNTER. NOT A SOUND! WAIT UNTIL HE SHINES HIS TORCH UPON US!

A THOUSAND STABS OF REFLECTED LIGHT MOMENTARILY BLIND THE ACE AGENT...
UUUUHHH!
A STAR WITH WHICH TO DEFEAT A STARR!

A MOMENT LATER...
I HAVE MY WISH. THE MINOS STAR IS NOW MINE TO DO WITH AS I CHOOSE. AND, NOW, YOU ALSO!
SEE YOU NEXT WEEK...

A Power House PIN-UP
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WANDA
The SCARLET WITCH